

REMARKS

Claims 29-35, 37-38, 49-53 and 56-61 were pending and under consideration, Claims 1-28, 36, 39-48 and 54-55 have been cancelled previously. By means of the present amendment, claims 56-58 have been canceled. No new matter has been added.

Claims 56-58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regards as the invention. These claims have been canceled, thus rendering the rejection moot.

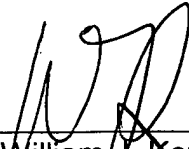
Claims 29-35, 37-38, 49-53 and 56-61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tadashi et al. (US Pat. No. 6,265,088) in view of Sato et al. (US Pat. No. 6,660,411). Applicants respectfully submit that Sato et al. was filed on September 20, 2001. The present application is entitled to an effective file date of April 9, 2001 under 35 U.S.C. § 363. Since this date is earlier than Sato et al., Sato et al. is not properly cited. Accordingly, Sato et al. does not qualify as prior art to the present application, and the rejection should be removed.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all the claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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